

Brush Rabbit Details Announced

by John F. Dunn

The Postal People have announced that the Brush Rabbit single that pays the Additional Ounce rate for First Class Mail will be released on January 24 and will be available in PSA panes of 20 and PSA coils of 100. Initial printings are 50 million stamps in panes and 60 million in coils. The FDOI site for this stamp has been designated as Sacramento, Calif., although no actual on-site ceremonies are being held during the continuing Covid-19 outbreak.

Following up on the “Barnesville” site being designated for the Barns stamps (see that issue’s article), I could not find any significant connection between Sacramento and Brush Rabbits. Should the Postal People want to change the FDOI site, towns in the U.S. named Rabbit Town are in Maryland, Kentucky and Alabama.

My search also turned up a town in Kentucky named Rabbit Hash. While that might be an inappropriate name for a rabbit stamp, the Wikipedia report on Rabbit Hash is worth repeating, as follows:

“Rabbit Hash is an unincorporated community....listed on the National Register of Historic Places....originally known as Carlton, but was required to change its name because mail was being mixed up with the larger...Carrollton several miles [away].

“The name Rabbit Hash may derive from the historic use of the local rabbit population as food. During the early 19th century the town was well known for a rabbit hash meal. It is said that, in December 1847, the townsfolk were discussing what each family would be serving for their Christmas dinner. According to folklore, a man responded that he would be serving rabbit hash dinner. His response led to the other villagers nicknaming him “Rabbit Hash” as a joke. Eventually, the nickname became the known name of the village itself, and the steamboats on the nearby Ohio River stopping to order the famous hash referred to the town by it.

“The hamlet’s most notable building, the Rabbit Hash General Store (c. 1831), was regarded as ‘the best known and best preserved country store in Kentucky’....added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 2, 1989...On February 13, 2016...destroyed by a fire.

“The first elected mayor in Rabbit Hash history was an adopted dog ‘of unknown parentage’ named Goofy Borneman-Calhoun, who was inaugurated in 1998 for a four-year term, after an election. “He died in office in July 2001, aged 16.

“The mayoralty remained unfilled until the next election, held in 2004, at which time Junior Cochran, a black Labrador, assumed office. Junior came under the scrutiny of the Northern Kentucky Health Depart-



ment and was banned from entering the town’s General Store due to complaints. According to a WXIX-TV report, on March 13, 2008, the dog’s owner petitioned for an exemption for the ‘mayor.’ On May 30, 2008, Junior died in office.

On August 31, 2008 a special election was held to fill the vacancy left by the death of mayor Junior, and was won by Lucy Lou, a border collie, becoming the town’s first female mayor. Mayor Lucy Lou shared a ‘Talking Points’ walk with Bill Geist (CBS Sunday Morning)...served as grand marshal of the Covington Paw-Rade...and has placed 3 years in a row in the Best Elected Official category in Cincinnati CityBeat magazine’s Best Of Cincinnati issue (winning 1st place in 2013). On September 7, 2015, Mayor Lucy’s office

announced that she was considering running for U.S. President...and is the only mayor not to die in office. Lucy Lou died on September 10, 2018 aged 12.[21]

“In November 8, 2016 mayoral election Brynneth ‘Brynn’ Pawltro, a pit bull took first place, having raised \$3,367. Bourbon, an Australian shepherd, came in second place, raising \$2,336. Lady Stone, a border collie, came in third place, raising \$1,621. Proceeds from the election went to the Rabbit Hash historical society to help restore the Rabbit Hash General store. In an unprecedented move, the Rabbit Hash Historical Society gave official positions to the 1st and 2nd runners-up, Bourbon and Lady, as Ambassadors to Rabbit Hash. In the case that the official mayor is unavailable for an event or obligation, the ambassadors will fill in.

“Wilbur Beast, a French bulldog, was elected mayor in November 2020 with 13,143 votes (the highest winning total ever) out of a total of 22,985 (also the highest total ever for a Rabbit Hash election). Jack Rabbit the Beagle, and Poppy the Golden Retriever came in second and third, making them both Rabbit Hash Ambassadors along with Ambassador Lady Stone, who will retain her position.”

As mentioned, the proceeds were used to rebuild the General Store. Per Wikipedia, “It was restored and reopened on April 1, 2017, using a combination of original material and donor lumber from other period correct structures around the area, thereby allowing the store to maintain its historic designation.”

Bringing all this back to philately, from 1879 to 1912 there was a Rabbit Hash Post Office. As collecting covers with odd town names was once popular, some “Rabbit Hash” covers may exist, but in an eBay search I was unable to find any.